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Gen. Harold M. McClelland; Communications Chief for CIA

Maj. Gen. Harold M. McClelland, USAF (Ret.), director of the communications system of the Central Intelligence Agency since his retirement from the Air Force 14 years ago, died yesterday at his home, 3315 Wisconsin ave. nw. He was 72.

Gen. McClelland had recently undergone major surgery, but was at his desk at CIA Thursday.

In 1951, after a military career of 34 years, Gen. McClelland was called to direct the development and management of the CIA's communication system.

W. F. Raborn, director of the CIA, called him "a man admired by everyone and a great leader who made a lasting contribution to the CIA."

"His exceptional achievements upheld the highest traditions of service to our Na-



MAJ. GEN. HAROLD
M. McCLELLAND

tion," said Allen W. Dulles, former CIA director.

A native of Tiffin, Iowa, Gen. McClelland graduated

from Kansas State University in 1916 with a bachelor of science degree. He was associated with Army and Air Force communications beginning in 1921 and during World War II was responsible for the development and use of many important radar and electronics devices.

In 1955, as a major, he broadcast the eclipse of the sun from the air—the first time it had been done. In 1934, as a communications and meteorological officer, Gen. McClelland accompanied Gen. Henry H. (Hap) Arnold on his Alaskan flight to photograph the Anchorage-to-Fairbanks airway.

At the time of his retirement from the Air Force, he was director of communications-electronics with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit and was a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

The General was a member of the Armed Forces Communications Association and the Cosmos Club and was a past member of the Institute of Radio Engineers, the American Meteorological Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He leaves his wife, Doris C., and a son, Alan J., of Houston.

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